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Letter dated 25 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 September 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 30 September 2004.

2. As at 30 September 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,816, including 3,007 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change in the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo, though apparently calm, remains fragile and tense and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

5. The number of ethnically motivated incidents has decreased over the month of September with the onset of autumn. This pattern was discernible over the same period last year. Over the reporting period, only 11 such incidents were noted. Encouragingly, the Austerlitz Bridge in Mitrovica saw more than 2,600 crossings without reports of any incident.

6. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained relatively low throughout the month of September.

7. In terms of organized crime, a total of 30 incidents were reported in relation to drug trafficking, illegal weapons finds and smuggling operations during the month of September. This shows a decrease of 23 per cent compared to August. Counterfeit currency cases, on the other hand, remain a more consistently reported offence.

8. The operational rehearsal for reserve forces in the Balkan joint area of operations, "Determined Commitment 2004", is currently under way and will be held from 11 October to 6 November 2004 in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rehearsal is timed to have the maximum impact during the elections in Kosovo on 23 October and in preparation for the transition from NATO to the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. As reported last month, KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre, avoid ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites. KFOR also remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a possible resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

10. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during September 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11 The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,975 active members, including 143 minorities, 37 of whom are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,838 members, 17 of whom are from ethnic minorities. There is an insufficient number of positions available to minorities in the active

personnel establishment list to reach the 10 per cent minority goal for KPC. KPC will not be recruiting Albanian members until this minority issue is resolved.

12. During September 2004, the multinational brigades carried out 24 roll calls and 1 Kosovo-wide roll call. The percentage of personnel absent without permission increased from 1.32 per cent in August to 1.74 per cent in September 2004.

13. In association with KPC and the KFOR Inspectorate of KPC, the UNMIK Office of the KPC Coordinator has approved the holding of KPC field training activities. On 28 September safety surveillance of the Lukare compound (a former Yugoslav Army ammunition depot) was handed over to KPC in accordance with the tasking issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on 15 September.

Conclusion

14. Reinforcements associated with exercise "Determined Commitment" have increased the flexibility of the KFOR Commander to react to potential crises related to the election process. Involvement at the level of the community remains the surest means to prevent an outbreak of violence similar to the events that unfolded in March 2004. In this respect, multinational brigade commanders have been taking part in local crime prevention council meetings.